



# Mine Falls Park Advisory Committee

## **THE 2010 ANNUAL REPORT**

2010 was a good year for Mine Falls Park despite the limited rainfall we received during the summer, and the damage that occurred due to a flood and windstorm in March. The park at this time is well maintained and very clean.

In January, 2010 we held officer elections and accepted committee volunteers to be Trail Day planners. The job of planning is actually every committee member's responsibility. This way we all share a type of ownership of the park. 2010 also showed an increased interest in helping with trail days from the Nashua Soccer Council. They were in attendance for many of our meetings and trail days.

Four major projects were completed this year:

- 1) The Gate House brick sitting area and the installation of a granite table and four benches was completed. The table had a compass rose etched into the surface.
- 2) Trail maintenance on the Blue / River Run trail that was deeply eroded when the Nashua River overflowed its banks in the early spring was worked on through out the year and was completed in the fall.
- 3) The clean up and opening up of the Cove area.
- 4) The signing of a five year lease agreement with UPS for the use of the parking lot on Whipple Street.

The committee spent time and effort in doing the annual spring survey of the park with an eye toward safety issues. Trail days for the year were planned based on the information that was collected. In April the group centered on the clean up of storm damage, clean up of the cove area, and clean up of the area off the turnpike known as the triangle area. Additionally the canal was cleaned of debris and the blue trail erosion was repaired. On April 24<sup>th</sup> the committee was represented on Earth Day at the landfill.

The May trail day was another well attended event. The triangle drain area cleanup was completed. The remaining clean up of the cove and canal (which included removing shopping carts) as well as the erosion work on the blue trail was completed. Oriental Bittersweet as well as other invasive weeds were removed from the Red and Blue trails, a hollow fire tree along the orange trail was cut down as well. The Gate House was open to the public and had 55 visitors.



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The June trail day brought another 70 visitors to the Gatehouse. Work also began on a project to put up 30 bird houses on old fence posts in the cove. The sluiceways off the Mill Pond were cleaned. In July the orange trail along the stream was cleaned and after brush was cut down by the Parks and Recreation Department the slope to the river by Lincoln Park was cleaned. The cove area was picked up and work continued on the bird house project.

In August the group focused on the reopening of the cove trail and the completion of the bird house project. More trail work was done on the blue trail and work began on the clean up of the trails off Cheyenne Drive.

September work included erosion work along the river by Stellos Stadium, the completion of the Lincoln Park slope clean up and the completion of erosion work along the blue trail by the Ralph Andrews Bridge.

In October erosion was repaired along the fox trail. Trash was removed from the cove and the cove slope stairs were repaired. A second trail day was scheduled and more trash was taken out of the cove. It was estimated that during the month of October more than 2 ½ tons of trash was removed from the cove area.

There are some interesting facts regarding trail days in 2010.

- Over 200 people visited the Gatehouse this year.
- Over 4 tons of trash was collected and disposed of.
- Over 90 pounds of cans and bottles were collected from the Cheyenne Drive area of the park.
- One member picked up over 3,000 cigarette butts from the park in 2010

2011 promises to be another productive year for the committee and the park. Some of the goals for the upcoming year are:

- 1) To complete the entrance sign project which will put new entrance signs and rules signs at all of the entrances to the park.
- 2) To complete the Gatehouse Boat Ramp relocation and rehabilitation project.
- 3) To continue to work on a bigger police presence in the park.



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- 4) To work with the City on the trail erosion problem located on the green trail south east of the Gatehouse.
- 5) To continue to look for ways to enhance and protect the park, including adding any abutting areas to the park if they ever became available.
- 6) To continue to promote visits to the Gatehouse and invite the Fairgrounds Middle School students to participate in the Gate house openings and the discussion of the now finished compass stone monument.

2010 was a good year for the park and the committee. Many dedicated people worked to improve and maintain this gem, through trail days as well as volunteering on an individual basis to keep the park clean and pristine.

Scott Rogers, Vice Chairman MFPAC